Alarm Information

What happens if the V.A.C.® Therapy unit alarms?
The Integrated V.A.C.® Therapy System has both audible and visual alarms that describe the nature of the problem. Most alarms are easily solved. This is something your attending physician/caregiver can explain in more detail before using, so that you are comfortable with this safety system.

For your safety the system will alarm if any of the following occurs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System will alarm if...</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canister is full.</td>
<td>This alarm will sound if the canister is full or if the tubing is kinked or blocked. Replace canister if full.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a leak.</td>
<td>You may hear a whistling sound indicating air is entering into the drape. Often, the leak is around the tubing. Repair drape leak using a new piece of the drape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery is low/dead.</td>
<td>Recharge battery by plugging the system into the wall outlet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapy is not activated.</td>
<td>Press therapy on/off button. Power is on, but therapy is not on.</td>
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Daily Use Tips:

- We recommend that you remain on V.A.C.® Therapy 24-hours a day. You should not be disconnected for more than 2 hours a day.
- The clear drape is waterproof and you may wash or shower with dressings in place if:
  - You are disconnected from the therapy unit.
  - The tubing is clamped.
  - You take care not to soak the dressing.
- The therapy unit is an electrical system and should not become wet.
- If dressings become soiled, gently clean with mild soap and water.
- If the therapy is off for more than 15 minutes, the alarm will sound. If you need more time, press the alarm delay button. You can reset the alarm as many times as you need.
- If the THERAPY ON/OFF button is accidentally turned off, push the same button to turn the unit back on. The system will return to all the right settings and therapy will continue.

Notify your physician/caregiver immediately if:

- You notice a significant change in colour or quantity of the fluid. For example, if you see clear drainage turn to cloudy or bright red.
- You see the canister fill rapidly.
- You observe increased redness or odour from the wound.
- You experience increasing pain.
- The alarm will not turn off and you have been unable to solve the problem.
- The V.A.C.® Therapy unit is turned off for more than 2 hours per day.
- You start any new medication.

Attending physician/caregiver information:

Name
Contact number
What is Integrated V.A.C.® Therapy System?

What is V.A.C.® Therapy?
V.A.C.® is short for Vacuum Assisted Closure®. V.A.C.® Therapy uses a vacuum or sub-atmospheric pressure to help speed up wound healing. V.A.C.® Therapy is delivered by an integrated therapy system using four main components:
- An intelligent therapy unit with a canister to hold fluid (Fig 1)
- A special foam dressing (Fig 2)
- A SensaT.R.A.C.® pad with tubing to connect the unit and the foam (Fig 3)
- Clear V.A.C.® Drape dressing (Fig 4)

How does the integrated V.A.C.® Therapy system work?
The foam dressing is placed in or onto the wound. The foam will be the black V.A.C.® GranuFoam®, the white V.A.C.® WhiteFoam, the grey Granufoam®Silver or a combination. This will depend on the type, size or location of your wound and at the discretion of your clinician.
The foam and a few centimeters of the surrounding skin will be covered with clear drape. A hole will be put in the center of the drape and your SensaT.R.A.C.® will be placed on top of it.
The other end of the tubing will be connected to the canister, which is attached to the therapy unit.
Depending on where you received V.A.C.® Therapy this unit will either be InfoV.A.C.® or ActiV.A.C.®

When the Integrated V.A.C.® Therapy System is in place and the unit is turned on the foam dressing collapses. At this time you might feel a slight pulling sensation.
From now on the system will pull excess fluid and infectious materials from the wound into the canister. This improves blood flow and can reduce swelling, thereby helping the wound to heal. We recommeded that the Integrated V.A.C.® Therapy System stays on 24 hours a day so it can continuously deliver its benefits to your wound healing process.

You should check frequently:
- Is the System on?
- Does it say ‘Therapy on’?
- Are all the clamps open?
- Has the dressing collapsed down?

Your Questions Answered

Q: How long will I be receiving V.A.C.® Therapy?
A: That depends on the type and severity of your wound and your body’s ability to heal wounds. Your attending physician/caregiver will offer you advice.

Q: How does V.A.C.® Therapy feel?
A: Many patients report a mild pulling sensation that tends not to be noticeable after about 15 minutes. As the wound heals it may become tender or itchy, this is normally a good sign but if discomfort persists, please contact your attending physician.

Q: How many hours a day must I keep the system on?
A: We recommend that you remain on V.A.C.® Therapy 24-hours a day. If the system must be off for more than two hours at a time, you should consult your attending physician/caregiver.

Q: How often does the dressing need to be changed?
A: The V.A.C.® dressing should be changed once every 48–72 hours, but no less than three times a week. For infected wounds, dressings may need to be changed more often. Your attending physician/caregiver will work with you to establish the best schedule for you.

Q: Will the dressing change hurt?
A: Some people do experience discomfort and your attending physician/caregiver can advise you on pain relief.

Q: How will the dressing look when the system is operating?
A: The dressing may shrink down or wrinkle slightly as the system operates.

Q: Is V.A.C.® Therapy safe?
A: Yes. V.A.C.® Therapy helps more than 30,000 patients every day and has been used on more than one million wounds around the world. The interaction of all V.A.C.® Therapy components ensures controlled, consistent and safe therapy.

Q: Can I move around?
A: One clear goal of V.A.C.® Therapy is to keep you as mobile as possible. Yet this depends on the location of the wound and the treatment your clinician has prescribed. Ask your attending physician/caregiver about your personal situation.

Q: What happens if the system alarms?
A: The visual alarm describes the nature of the problem and most alarms are easily solved. This is something your attending physician/caregiver can explain and there is more information in the User Guide.